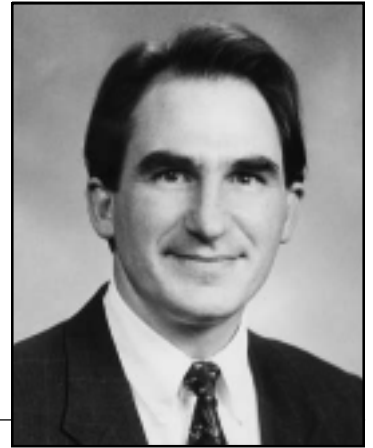




JIM KASTAMA

State Representative • 25th Legislative District



Committees

Energy & Utilities
Finance
Children & Family Services

Session Address

(Jan. 12- Mar. 12)
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PO Box 40600
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253-840-4701
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1-800-562-6000

TDD

(for hearing impaired)
1-800-635-9993

E-Mail

kastama_ja@leg.wa.gov.

The Legislature's Internet Home Page

<http://leginfo.leg.wa.gov>

Dear Friends,

I am excited to return to Olympia and begin the legislative session. As always, there are well-publicized issues, such as education, transportation and the budget. There are also less well-known, yet still very important, issues on which I am working diligently. I want to share some of these with you.

In 1997, the federal formula for funding **breast and cervical cancer screening** for low-income women was changed. The unexpected change caused a shortfall of 1.5 million for Washington for 1998, leaving hundreds of women unprotected from cancers that can be cured if discovered at an early stage through screening. I have co-sponsored a bill to fill this shortfall until full federal funding is returned in 1999.

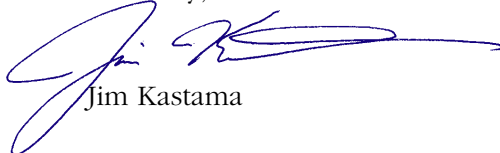
No one wants drug paraphernalia sold in their community, but **eliminating the sale of drug paraphernalia**, such as bongos and crack pipes, is very difficult. Why? It is constitutionally required that a prosecutor prove that the person selling the paraphernalia actually knows that the person buying it will use it with drugs (instead of tobacco.) I am sponsoring a bill that will at least make drug paraphernalia illegal to anyone under the age of 18. This is just common sense.

Disabled and elderly people are often faced with big expenditures such as wheelchairs, walkers and hospital beds. I am sponsoring a bill to **eliminate sales-tax on medical equipment** that is used in the home of a disabled or elderly person. Washington is one of the few states to tax these items.

To bring some peace to the difficulty children face when their parents divorce, I am also sponsoring a bill to ensure that **good parents are allowed to share parenting responsibilities after a divorce or separation**. Studies show that the current "win-lose" custody battles only hurt one person: the child. My well-researched bill has been shown to reduce conflict, increase parental involvement and cooperation, and ultimately benefit children.

These are just four examples of pieces of legislation I am working on. In the lives of working people like you and me, they can actually make a **big** difference. I will send you a summary of how things went after the session ends, in approximately 60 days. Please feel free to contact me using the Toll-Free Hotline @ 1-800-562-6000. My best wishes.

Sincerely,



Jim Kastama

Results From November Survey

1 We have a healthy state revenue surplus, and the Legislature should be able to enact further tax-relief in 1998. What is your highest tax-relief priority?

- 47.4% Property-tax relief
- 26.4% Reduce vehicle license-tab fees
- 15.8% Sales-tax relief
- 3.8% Business-tax relief

2 How satisfied are you with our current health care system?

- Very satisfied 19.3%
- Moderately satisfied 52.1%
- Not at all satisfied 22.7%

Survey totals may not add to 100%

3 Should school levies pass with a simple majority (over 50%), rather than with the current law's requirement for a supermajority of 60%?

Yes 43.2%
No 52.93%
Don't know 3.9%

4 Washington state's \$4.90 minimum wage is the lowest on the West Coast. Oregon's minimum wage will increase to \$6.50 an hour in 1999. Would you support raising our state minimum wage to \$6.50 an hour by the year 2000, with automatic adjustments for inflation in later years?

Yes 66.9%
No 27%
Don't know 6.1%

5 Should the Blood Alcohol Content at which a driver is declared legally intoxicated be lowered from .10% to .08%?

Yes 61.1%
No 33.33%
Don't know 5.6%

6 Washington state currently funds half-day kindergarten. Do you believe the state should fund full-day kindergarten?

Yes 28.7%
No 63.63%
Don't know 7.6%

7 Initiative 601 allows the Legislature to spend an additional \$150 million during the 1998 session. How should this \$150 million of allowed spending be used? (Circle only one)

36.5% Share the \$150 million among vital state services, including schools, higher education, transportation and long-term care for senior citizens.
26.1% Don't spend the \$150 million allowed by I-601. Use it for additional tax relief.
18.5% Use all \$150 million to improve public schools by funding school construction, reduced class sizes and progress on education reform.
16.1% Put the \$150 million into the state's "rainy day fund" for use during a time of economic downturn.

8 All state gas-tax revenues are dedicated to the Transportation Budget, which is separate from the state's general budget. Would you support an increase in the state gas-tax to pay for road and highway improvements and to reduce traffic congestion?

Yes 31.1%
No 61.9%
Don't know 7%

Please take advantage of the Legislative Hotline to stay informed (and keep me informed!!) I want to hear from you!!

Toll-Free Legislative Hotline: 1-800-562-6000

TDD, for hearing-impaired: 1-800-635-9993

Session Hours (Jan. 12 - Mar. 12)

Monday - Friday 8 am - 8 pm
Saturday 9 am - 1 pm

Send a message to:

- Your 25th District Legislators
- The Governor, or
- The Lieutenant Governor


Check the status of a proposed bill.
See if a bill is scheduled for a hearing.

Order documents from the bill room:

- Bill status list
- Copy of a bill
- Legislative Meeting Schedule
- Other official materials



Puyallup resident Lyle Laws' testimony on the disabled parking system had an impact, and you can have an impact too! I want to know your opinions, questions and concerns about what is taking place here in Olympia.

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JIM KASTAMA
REPRESENTATIVE

1998 Session Report

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